SANCTIFIED IGNORANCE.

Text- 1 Cor.13:12 For now we see in a mirror darkly;....Now I know in part.

Intro.

Corinth in the time of the Apostle Paul.
Center of social forces and vice.

The Church at Corinth.
Founded by Paul the year before writing of letter.
Made up of lowly Gentiles

The Letter to the Church.
Dealing with the problem of factions and gross immoralities.

The part from which text is taken deals with Spiritual Gifts, including the great Love Chapter.

The Apostle Paul a learned man and rich in Xn experience, yet he acknowledged his ignorance.

"Now we see in a mirror darkly."
."Now I know only in part".

The specialist who confessed that medical science knew nothing of the cause of a certain mental condition.

W.J.Bryan against Darwinism and Evolution on the ground that materailstic science is in the dark concerning much of creation.

The moderator's sermon at presbytery.

Colton-Ignorance lies at the bottom of all human knowledge, and the deeper we penetrate the nearer we arrive unto it. For what do we truly know, or what can we clearly affirm, of any one of those important thingsupon which all our reasonings must of necessity be built- time, space, life, death, matter and mind?

8. Just as there is a vast difference between the understanding of an educated man and an uneducated man, so there is a vast difference between the ignorance of a learned man and the ignorance of an unlearned man.

As I listened to the specialist admit that his science as yet knew nothing of the mental trouble in question, it dawned upon me that my ignorance of the subject and his ignorance of it were altogether different from each other. Mine was an ignorance of the whole matter; his was an ignorance that had been reduced to a minimum after all available knowledge on the subject had been mastered. The scientist had devoted his whole life and utmost ability and energy to the mastery of his science, his, therefore, was a consecrated ignorance.

There is a vast difference between Paul's darkness concerning God, Jesus Christ and Eternal Life and the ignorance of a man outside of Christ having had no experience of spiritual things.

The ignorance of Paul was sanctified ignorance- he was pressing toward his goal in Jesus Christ with all his might and was using his whole mental and moral energy to discover God more fully.

Darwin's ignorance of living species was sanctified ignorance- he pressed with all his might to discover the key to their mystery.

The specialist in any line(including Paul) who has mastered his subject so far as it is possible for him to do so thru a life consecrated and devoted to the discovery of all the truth possible in his particular realm of investigation is sanctified in his ignorance as well as in hisknowledge, because, py pressing on into the unknown he expects to discover the truth more fully. "Now we see as in a mirror darkly- then face to face". "then I shall know fully".

How easily we say,"The doctors dont know any more than we do". Or, "After all what do the scientists know?" Or, "Who can know anything about God?"

On the other hand, how ignorant indeed- and presumptious- are the men who are absolutely certain that they understand all Truth and that there is no darkness within them whatever!

We are all ignorant, it is true, but it is our privelege to make ours a sanctified ignorance, the frontier of our knowledgeinto which we keep pressing on in order to discover understanding of the Truth.

A person whose ignorance is unsanctified is either lazy or self-satisfied. And Jesus waged incessant war against self-satisfaction as the arch-enemy of growth and progress.

He who stops learning is dead. Xty is the Way which keeps one moving from discovery to discovery, from experience to experiance

1. We can sanctify our ignorance thru prayer. Prayer is a means of further discovery of Truth which is in Christ Jesus- Truth about God and self and fellow man.

2. We can sanctify our ignorance by exercising our sympathies and maintaining our interests. Our active sympathies keep us out of blind alleys. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Loving obedience. A loving heart is the beginning of knowledge. By taking an active interest in other people and regarding them with sympathetic concern we are lifted up y into the realm of understanding such as Jesus lived in constantl Such living makes old age mellow instead of sour and fits us for entrance into the Eternal Life of God.

3. Likewise we sanctify our ignorance thru service, thru responsibility and effort on behalf of others. Thus we keep ouselves in fresh pathways.

Tell about Lower Road & Iron Horse "A Wish"

You don't have to be a preacher to make the world better and happier; like these simple souls, we can each of us, in our own way and sphere, do something to ease the road to our fellow-travelers.

The following expresses the philosophy of Sam Walter Foss, and is, perhaps, one of his most widely quoted poems:

A WISH

By Sam Walter Foss

Let me live in my house by the side of the road
Where the race of men go by.
They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong,
Wise, foolish—so am I.

Then why should I sit in the scanner's seat
Or hurl the cynic's ban?
Let me live in my house by the side of the road
And be the friend of man.

Sam Foss, one day, was walking along a New England road, hot and dusty, when he came to a path and a sign,"Stop and rest and have a drink" The spring of cool water. Another sign "Help Yourself", a basket of fruit. Discovered a humble home near by and in it an eldery couple living with but few comforts. "We have but little and cannot do much, so we have taken this way of helping our fellow man"